

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /134 W

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R 021126Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1813

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION GENEVA

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GENEVA FOR MEPCDEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, JO, SY

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SYRIAN FONMIN TO AMMAN

1. SYRIAN DEPUTY PREMIER AND FORMIN ABD AL-HALIM KHADDAM MADE 24-HOUR VISIT TO AMMAN JUNE 29-30 AMIDST WIDE COVERAGE BY JORDANIAN NEWS MEDIA. IN ROUND OF TALKS WITH KING HUSSEIN, PREMIER ZAYD RIFA'I, AND OTHER JORDANIAN OFFICIALS, KHADDAM STRESSED NECESSITY OF CONTINUING CONTACTS BETWEEN BROTHERLY STATES IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN UNITY OF ACTION AGAINST ISRAELI OCCUPATION. PRESS REPORTS PLAYED UP MESSAGE FROM PRES. ASAD TO KING HUSSEIN WHICH EMPHASIZED NEED FOR UNITY, AND EDITORIALS PRAISED HEROISM OF SYRIAN ARMY DURING OCTOBER WAR. IN EVENING BANQUET, PREMIER RIFA'I

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PRESENTED KHADDAM WITH JORDAN STAR MEDAL ON BE-

HALF KING HUSSEIN.

2. KHADDAM VISIT IS LATEST AND MOST IMPORTANT IN SERIES OF OFFICIAL JORDANIAN-SYRIAN CONTACTS SINCE PRES. NIXON VISIT. PRESIDENT OF ROYAL CABINET, BAHJAT TALHUNI, CARRIED MESSAGE FROM KING HUSSEIN TO PRES. ASAD ON JUNE 19, WHICH, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, SUGGESTED HOLDING OF SUMMIT MEETING BETWEEN SADAT, ASAD, HUSSEIN, AND PLO'S ARAFAT. PRESS ALSO CLAIMS THAT SYRIA IS ATTEMPTING TO MEDIATE BETWEEN PLO AND GOJ.

3. COMMENT: CORDIALITY OF JORDANIAN RECEPTION AND LAVISHNESS OF PRESS COVERAGE SUGGEST THAT GOJ IS WELL-LAUNCHED ON PROGRAM OF COORDINATION WITH SYRIA ON MIDEAST NEGOTIATIONS. WE ALSO IMPRESSED BY DEGREE OF GENERAL RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN JORDAN AND SYRIA ON OFFICIAL LEVEL IN RECENT WEEKS.
PICKERING

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